

UNCLASSIFIED 6/2/79

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Timmerman, Viola's one-year term as commandant

PARTICIPANTS: Bernardo Neustadt, media commentator and John Corr, IO

PLACE: Neustadt's Office in Buenos Aires

DATE: June 7, 1979

Neustadt said:

He spoke to Videla about Timmerman two weeks ago. Videla said that if he released Timmerman, his (Videla's) problems abroad would decrease by 80%. However, his internal problems would increase 90% at the same time, a situation he simply could not withstand.

Viola is stepping down at the end of the year because Videla gave his word to the hardline major generals who voted in majority against Viola as commandant that Viola would restrict himself to a one-year tour as Army head because of the strong opposition to his assuming that office. (This version is also supported by Jose Ignacio Lopez, national political correspondent of Noticias Argentinas.)

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Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
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